

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION



Information Letter



FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

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Board of Directors to Meet in Chicago

The regular semi-annual meeting of the Board of Directors will be held at the Sherman Hotel in Chicago, Friday, December 4, the sessions opening at 9:30 A. M. There are a number of important matters to come before the Board, and it is expected that there will be a full attendance.

Want Invoices Sent in Same Mail as Draft

Complaints have been received that canners, in some instances, are failing to mail jobbers direct copies of invoices on "draft attached" transactions. When no copy of the invoice is mailed, the buyer does not have an opportunity to check details pending the actual presentation of the draft by the bank. For this reason canners will readily appreciate the desire of the jobbers that shippers mail a copy of the invoice direct to the consignee in the same mail that they send out the draft.

Canned Foods Week to Cover Wider Field

That the local Canned Foods Week committees are covering all the territory that can be reached in their respective markets is evident from requests being received for additional campaign materials. The number of towns and cities that will observe Canned Foods Week will probably be double the number of committees now at work.

Every Canned Foods Week sees some new device introduced to gain publicity for the event, and this year Buffalo comes forward with the purchase and distribution of 60,000 balloons to children. The plan for this was presented at a meeting of the Buffalo committee by one of the members who offered to supply 2,500 balloons if anyone else would furnish a similar quantity. The idea was enthusiastically received and contributors quickly subscribed for 100,000 balloons in all.

Word comes from Cincinnati that cards will be placed in all of the street cars of that city and that one Cincinnati firm has arranged with fifty motion picture theatres to advertise their canned foods by appropriate slides during Canned Foods Week.

Radio talks have already been definitely scheduled for a dozen broadcasting stations, and at some stations there will be a series of addresses covering the entire period during which Canned Foods Week will be observed.

Orders for the souvenir banks furnished by the American Can Company indicate that over 100,000 people will partake of canned food luncheons at Rotary, Kiwanis, Lion and other clubs.

In a number of cities the interest of school officials has been aroused, and during Canned Foods Week there will be special instruction on canned foods, to assist in which the instructors have been supplied with various publications of the National Cannery Association.

Duty on Canned Pineapple and Pimientos

A recent decision of the Board of United States General Appraisers overrules a protest of T. M. Stevens & Co., of Portland, Ore., the question at issue being as to whether the commodity involved, pineapples in tins, should have been assessed for duty purposes upon the weight of the net contents of the tins, including the fruit and juice, or upon the weight of the net content of fruit alone. The collector levied duty upon the weight of the fruit and juice, which action the importers complained of. Judge Waite, however, denied relief to the importers in this case, pointing out that no competent proof was offered as to the method of preparing the fruit, nor was it clear what the juice consisted of.

In Information Letter No. 112 there was noted a decision of the U. S. Court of Customs Appeals which reversed the Board of General Appraisers in a somewhat similar case. The Board in this case overruled an importer who appealed from the assessment of duty on the weight of pineapple and water combined and the Customs Court then reversed the Board, holding that, in the particular case under review, the customs duty on canned slices and chunks of pineapple, packed in water, is assessable on the weight of the pineapple only. In this case the importer submitted evidence that the pineapple in question was bought and sold on the basis of the net weight of the pineapple and that the liquid content was of no value and was discarded.

Sustaining protests of importers, the Customs Board has found that certain pimientos in oil in tins, assessed for duty at 6 cents per pound under paragraph 779, law of 1922, as whole

pimientos, should have been assessed, as claimed by the protestants, as prepared vegetables at 35 per cent ad valorem under paragraph 773 of the same law.

Our Foreign Trade in Manufactured Foodstuffs

Exports of manufactured foodstuffs were a relatively larger part of the total export trade in September, and imports a relatively smaller part of the total import trade, than in September last year. Manufactured foodstuffs were 12.8 per cent of the total exports in September this year, and 11.6 per cent last year, while in the import trade they were 9.5 per cent this year and 13.3 per cent in September of last year.

The exports of various canned foods in September, 1924 and 1925, were as follows:

	1924	1925
	pounds	pounds
Canned vegetables, total	3,844,913	5,624,847
Canned fruits, total	35,865,923	54,552,837
Apricots	4,458,689	4,467,137
Peaches	11,333,000	17,538,283
Pears	13,880,854	21,969,893
Pineapple	3,779,729	8,378,074
Canned salmon	10,485,132	7,352,286
Canned sardines	4,161,247	4,072,656
Canned beef	150,822	128,201
Canned sausage	333,275	242,822
Condensed milk	4,192,271	2,348,391
Evaporated milk	15,891,710	13,339,259

Liability of Express Companies

By a decision of the U. S. Supreme Court in a case brought by the American Railway Express Company from Georgia, express companies are not liable for the actual value of property shipped in their custody when the package is not fully insured, but is sent at the minimum rate. A package was sent from Comer, Ga., to Baltimore and the shipment was never delivered. The company sought to limit its liability to \$50, the amount fixed by the receipt as the maximum, but the State Court allowed actual value. The State Court has now been reversed by the Supreme Court.

Index of Information Letters Nos. 1-94

Accompanying this issue of the Weekly Letter is an index of the first 94 Information Letters, which provides in convenient form references to all of the material appearing up to the close of December, 1924. An index of Nos. 95 to 118 was included with the Weekly Letter for June 27.

Reconsideration of Rates on Tin Cans Denied

The Interstate Commerce Commission, by a decision under date of October 17, has denied a petition asking for reargument and reconsideration of the case involving rates on tin cans from Central Freight Association Territory points to Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin. The Commission's decision, which was noted in Information Letter No. 115, cancelled the proposed increased rates and increased minimum rates, and left the rates as they formerly stood.

Indiana Cannery Convention

The annual convention of the Indiana Cannery Association will be held Wednesday and Thursday, November 11 and 12, at West Baden, Indiana.

Condition of Wholesale Trade

Sales in all leading lines of wholesale trade increased in September and the total volume of trade as measured by the Federal Reserve Board's combined index of wholesale trade was 9 per cent larger than in August. Wholesale trade usually increases in September as retailers begin to build up their stocks in anticipation of autumn trade, but the increase this year between August and September was greater than that which usually occurs. Sales of groceries, shoes, hardware, and drugs increased more than 10 per cent in September, while those of meats and dry goods were about 5 per cent larger. Compared with September of last year, sales were 3 per cent larger and were in the largest September volume since 1920. As a consequence of increased sales in September, stocks of merchandise at wholesale firms, as measured in dollar values, showed a further reduction and were smaller at the end of the month than for any previous month this year. Stocks of all leading lines except groceries were smaller, those of meats, dry goods, and drugs showing the largest declines.

Malaya a Good Market for Sardines

In 1914 the United States furnished 5,283 tons of the 5,381 tons of canned sardines imported into British Malaya. For the first six months of the present year the trade has been larger than in the corresponding period of 1924, and American sardines have maintained their important position.

The American consul at Singapore writes that cans bearing red and yellow colors are preferred by the Chinese, who are large buyers, and he emphasizes the need of careful packing to prevent breakage and loss in transit.